

He said, a lot of folks think I did this, but do I look like a fellow who would murder a woman? I wouldn't murder anybody. Some fellows came to the school and accused me and I just laughed at them. One said to me, "How is it that everything we ask you, you just grin?" and I said, "It is because I have will power. You fellows cant come from New York and fool me." I have got will-power. I wouldn't murder anybody. Mrs. Hall knows a lot. She didn't do it, but people think she had a hand in the throat cutting. You know, when an older woman losses a man to a young woman, she don't get over it so easy. And Charlotte said, some people think the throat was cut with a blunt instrument and Mills said, "No, it was cut with a pen knife" and I said, "It must have been a pretty big knife" and he said, "No, they took it in their hand this way" and indicated that they took it by the hilt and drew it down around the neck. He said it was a crime of jealousy. A day or two after they found the bodies, some man at the Church came to me and said, "It is black mail and robbery", and I cursed him out and said, "No, this is a crime of jealousy. Then I said, "Well, if it is jealousy, it must have been you or Mrs. Hall and if either one said that you found them in a compromising position and killed them, no jury at all would convict." Mills said, "Oh, that would have been all right at first, but she couldn't get away with that now, because the State has been put to too much expense".

Note.

On Monday night, January 22, 1923, Mrs. Kelly said to Mills, "Did Totten find you? He was over here looking for you and I sent him over to the school" and Mills said, "Yes, he came over there. Just the same old thing-question and question, over the same ground. Then after Mrs. Kelly left, he said to Charlotte, " You know, I think Totten and Parker believe I did this. By their questioning, they seem to think I had a hand in it.

STATEMENT OF JAMES MILLS.

taken on Jan. 24, 1923